

Maidenhead
Education Committee.



MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL
CHILDREN.

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

OF

School Medical Officer

1923.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
MAIDENHEAD EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

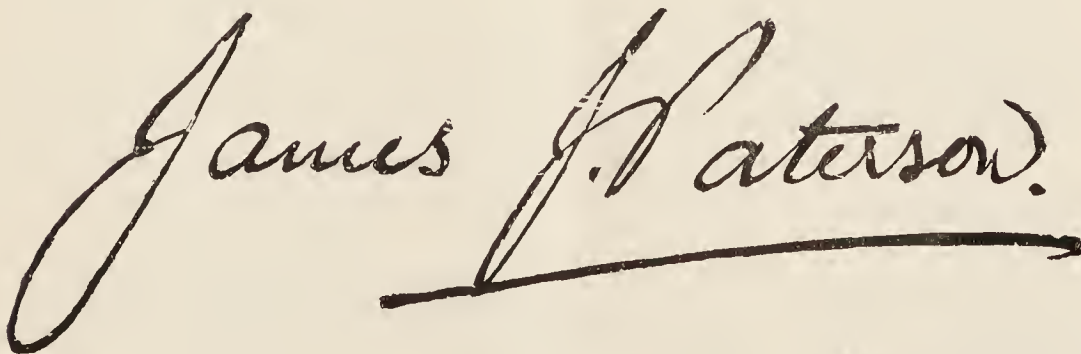
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I present herewith the Sixteenth issue of the Annual Report of the School Medical Officer for the year ended 31st December, 1923.

The Report follows closely the lines laid down in the Circular of the Board of Education relating to School Medical Officers' Reports, and as far as possible, all matter which has been described in previous Reports, has been omitted so as to reduce the cost of printing. The new and simplified form of Tables recommended for use by the Board have been adopted. There are no exceptional features in connection with the year's work calling for special comment, and I have, as in former years, to acknowledge the ready assistance given by other members of the School Medical Service in the carrying out of the prescribed work.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

A large, elegant handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "James F. Paterson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the signature.

M.D., (Lond.)

School Medical Officer

Guildhall,

Maidenhead,

February, 1924.

Maidenhead School Medical Officer's Report for the year, 1923.



1. Staff. There has been no change in the personnel of the School Medical Staff which remains the same as described in paragraph 1 of the Report for 1920.

2. Co-Ordination. This remains as described in paragraph 2 of the Report for 1921.

3. The School Medical Service in relation to Public Elementary Schools.

(a) *School Hygiene.* The following works have been carried out during the Year 1923.

C. of E. (East St.)	Boys' Dept.	1 Classroom ; interior decorations.
	Girl's do.	2 Classrooms ; do.,
Boyn Hill	Infants' ,,	Whole interior cleansed, and re-decorated.
St. Mary's R.C.		Lobbies and Staircase cleansed.
Council	Boys' & Girls'	Varnishing of whole of interior woodwork.

4. Medical Inspection. This is conducted on the lines laid down in various circulars issued by the Board. The details have been amply described in previous Reports.



5. Findings of Medical Inspection. The actual number of children examined at School in the Routine Groups were : Entrants, 156, Intermediates, 180, Leavers, 230 ; Total 566. In addition there were 392 inspections of special cases. The number of infants and intermediates examined is considerably less than in the previous year, and this is accounted for largely by the fact that admissions to schools are much fewer than in previous years.

(a) *Uncleanliness.* Great improvement in personal cleanliness has been effected during recent years, thanks largely to surprise visits paid to the various schools by the School Nurse. Amongst the routine groups of children, only 2 were found infected with vermin in the head, this being the lowest figure yet recorded, but in 107 cases, although no actual vermin were discovered at the time of inspection, nits were present. This number is still far too high, but nevertheless, it is a considerable improvement upon any previous figures. Ragged and dirty clothing and bad footwear were as much in evidence as in the previous year. The number being, 54 untidy, 6 dirty, and 50 cases where the footwear was marked as bad. It may be remarked however, that the bulk of these cases are found in certain well known families, which seem incapable of rising to a reasonable standard of cleanliness and tidiness.

(b) *Minor Ailments.* Nothing further need be added to the remarks which have appeared under this head in previous Reports. A very large number of cases are dealt with daily at the School Clinic, a fair proportion of them being ailments of a trivial nature, but nevertheless, such as might have serious results if neglected. Details of the numbers dealt with under this head will be found in Table II. of the Appendix.

(c) *Tonsils and Adenoids.* The number of cases of enlarged tonsils and adenoids requiring operative treatment, becomes smaller and smaller each year as the effect of the work done in previous years becomes apparent. Many children present some degree of enlargement in one or both tonsils, but only such cases as present distinct symptoms are recommended for treatment. Altogether 18 notices were issued advising removal of tonsils and adenoids, 14 of which were treated under the Local Authority's Scheme and 4

by private practitioners. On the other hand, in 35 cases, this treatment had already been secured before the child had matured for medical inspection.

(d) *Tuberculosis.* Only one case of suspected tuberculosis was met with in the course of routine inspection. This small number is explained by the fact that as soon as the presence of this disease is suspected the patient is sent up to the Minor Ailments Clinic and dealt with as a special case, without waiting for routine inspection at school. In this way, 6 definite cases of tuberculosis and 8 suspected cases were taken in hand during the course of the year. One case of tuberculous glands of the neck was discovered at the routine inspection and five cases of other forms of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were dealt with at the Clinic.

(e) *Skin Disease.* Ringworm of the scalp, which used to figure largely under this head, is now reduced to very small proportions. Only one case was discovered amongst the routine groups and 6 other fresh cases were dealt with at the Clinic. By an arrangement entered into with Dr. David Arthur, 5, North Common Road, Ealing, W. 5., on the 29th May, 1923, children suffering from this troublesome disease can be sent to him on certain days for X-Ray treatment, and so far, the results have been uniformly satisfactory. In necessitous cases, the travelling expenses are paid by the Local Authority.

Scabies, which a few years ago, reached considerable proportions, as many as 80 cases being reported in one year, has now been got in hand, and though 18 cases were discovered and treated, the disease is not likely to be so widespread as it was, thanks to the facilities now provided at the Clinic for bathing and disinfecting the clothing of infected children. Impetigo and similar sores make up the bulk of the skin cases that were dealt with, the number coming to just over 100.

(f) *External Eye Disease.* The majority of the cases under this head are dealt with at the Clinic, where they are sent by the teachers as soon as the condition is noted. Five cases of Blepharitis and 1 case of Conjunctivitis were noted at routine inspection,

while 15 of the former and 10 of the latter were special cases at the Clinic.

(g) *Vision.* As described in previous reports, the School Oculist attends at the Clinic on the fourth Wednesday of each month throughout the year, except during August, for the purpose of measuring the refraction and prescribing glasses, and dealing with any other forms of defective vision or eye disease. Details of the work under this head will be found in Group 2 of Table IV. The spectacles prescribed at the Clinic are provided at a special rate by Messrs. Kirby & Sons, 15, Oxford Street, Reading, such prices varying from 3/6 to 7/3. Amongst the routine groups, 16 children were already wearing glasses prescribed for them at the Clinic.

(h) *Ear Disease and Hearing.* Most of the cases of discharging ears are sent for immediate treatment at the Clinic, so that comparatively few remain to be discovered at the routine inspections. The actual cases appearing in the routine groups for 1923 were, 2 with discharge from the left ear, 1 from the right ear, and 2 others with other affections of the ear. Four children showed a marked degree of deafness in both ears, and 1 in the left ear only.

(i) *Dental Defects.* A summary of the work done by the School Dentist is given in Group 4. of Table IV, where it will be noted the greater proportion of the time allotted to this work, is devoted to treatment rather than to inspection.

(j) *Crippling Defects.* The cases under this head do not call for special comment. The 5 cases appearing in the routine groups had already been placed under treatment as special cases at the Clinic.

6. **Infectious Diseases.** On the advice of the School Medical Officer, the following Schools were closed for the periods mentioned :

<i>Name of School</i>	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Cause</i>
C. of E. Infants	26-11-23	After Xmas Holidays	Measles
Boyn Hill Infants	30-11-23	ditto	do,
Council Infants	30-11-23	ditto	do.
St. Mary's R.C. Infants	30-11-23	ditto	do,

The following is a list of the cases for which the School Medical Officer gave a certificate of temporary exclusion from attendance at School :

Abscess	...	...	2
Blepharitis	...	...	4
Boils	...	...	5
Conjunctivitis	...	...	5
Corneal Ulcer	...	...	1
Debility	...	..	4
Eyesight	...	...	2
Impetigo	...	...	27
Injuries	...	...	10
Jaundice	...	...	5
Mumps	...	...	3
Otitis media	...	...	1
Rash	...	...	2
Ringworm, Scalp	...	...	8
Scabies	...	...	8
Septic Conditions	...	...	8
Sore Throat	...	...	32
Teeth	...	...	1
Tuberculosis	...	...	5
Verminous Head	...	...	23
„ Body	...	...	4
Whooping Cough	...	...	2
Other	...	...	11
Total Exclusions for Year 1923.			173

7. **Following up.** The methods adopted for following up children who have been recommended for treatment, have been described at length in paragraph 7 of the report for 1920. No change in these arrangements has taken place.

8. **Medical Treatment.**

(a) *Minor Ailments.* The working arrangements at the Clinic at the Town Hall where minor ailments are treated remains the same as described in paragraph 8 of last year's report. The number of Children who attended the Clinic during the year 1923 was 345 and the number of attendances 1131.

(b) *Tonsils and Adenoids.* The scheme for treatment of tonsils and adenoids remains the same as described in paragraph 8 of the report for 1921.

(c) *Tuberculosis.* The remarks made in the corresponding paragraph in last year's Report still hold good.

(d) *Skin Disease.* The majority of these are of a trivial nature and are dealt with at the minor ailments Clinic. One or two of the more severe forms of skin disease, *e.g.* Eczema and Psoriasis, have been sent to special Hospitals for expert advice and directions as to treatment.

(e) *External Eye Disease.* Cases of minor severity are dealt with at the Clinic. The more severe cases are referred to the School Oculist for advice and directions as to treatment.

(f) *Defective Vision.* An Eye Clinic is held on the fourth Wednesday of each month throughout the year, (except during August). The arrangements for examining cases and obtaining spectacles, remain the same as described in previous Reports. There were no operations for squint.

(g) *Ear Disease and Hearing.* There is nothing further to add to the paragraph which appeared under this head in last year's Report.

(h) *Dental Defects.* The number of examinations of children by the School Dentist at the Schools has been considerably curtailed this year because of the number of half Sessions devoted to filling and conservative treatment. Also a considerable number of casual cases have been dealt with. Numerical details of the work done appears in Table IV., Group 4.

(j) *Crippling Defects and Orthopaedics.* There is no special scheme for the treatment of defects under this head, but such cases as are brought to the notice of the School Medical Officer are dealt with by referring them to a special hospital or local charities.

9. Open Air Education.

10. Physical Training.

11. Provision of Meals.

12. School Baths.

The Local Education Authority does not undertake any special work under these heads.

13. Co-operation of Parents.
14. Co-operation of Teachers.
15. Co-operation of School Attendance Officer.
16. Co-operation of Voluntary bodies.
17. Blind, Deaf, Defective and Epileptic Children.

The arrangements remain the same as detailed in the corresponding paragraphs of previous Reports.

18. Nursery Schools. None in this Area.

19. Secondary Schools. There are two secondary schools in the Borough namely : The County School for Boys and the County School for Girls. The medical inspection of pupils attending these Schools is undertaken by the County Authority.

20. Continuation Schools. These have not yet been established in the Borough.

21. Employment of Children and Young Persons

Mr. W. E. Harding, Sanitary Inspector and Inspector under the Shops' Act, was appointed in 1921 to act as Enforcement Officer with regard to the Employment of Children and Young Persons : The following is his Report upon the year's work :

No. of children registered and Employment Cards issued ...	58
„ „ medically inspected and granted certificates	37
„ „ „ „ „ rejected ...	3
„ „ who have reached the age limit (14 years) or left their employment and surrendered Employment Cards ...	58
„ „ on Register 31st Dec., 1923 and engaged in the following occupations:—	
Delivering Newspapers ...	45
Delivering Milk ...	4
Delivering Bread ...	2
Golf Caddies ...	17
Errand Boys ...	8
	—
Total ...	76
Minor Contraventions ...	19

Employment of Young Persons.

STREET TRADING.

No. of Young Persons medically examined and granted Certificates, License and Badge		3
No. of Young Persons medically examined and rejected	..	0
Details of Employment : Selling Newspapers	...	1
,, Cakes		2
No. of Young Persons on Register 31st December, 1923	..	2

22. Special Enquiries. No special enquiries were conducted during the Year under review.

23. Miscellaneous. Ten persons have been examined by the School Medical Officer as to fitness for employment as teachers in the Local Elementary Schools ; these include :

2 Female Uncertificated Teachers.

2 Female Certificated Teachers.

5 Female Student Teachers.

1 Male Student Teacher.

24. Payments by Parents. The cost of spectacles supplied during the Year by Messrs. Kirby & Sons of Reading amounted to £17 0 11, of this amount, £7 2 6 was collected from Parents of the children supplied. Other sums as shewn below were collected from Parents in respect of treatment at the Clinics.

(1)	Spectacles	...	£7	2	6
(2)	Minor Ailments	...		9	1
(3)	Dental Treatment	...		2	6
			£7	14	1

23. Statistical Tables. The Four Statistical Tables required by the Board as set out in their Circular dated the 27th December, 1923, are included at the end of this Report.





APPENDIX.



Table I. Return of Medical Inspections.

For the Calendar year ended Dec. 31st, 1923.

A. Routine Medical Inspections.

Number of Code Group Inspections:—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	156
Intermediates	...	...	...	...	180
Leavers ...	...	...	...	...	230
Total					566

Number of other Routine Inspections ... Nil.

B. Other Inspections.

	School	Clinic	Total
Number of Special Inspections	32	183	215
Number of Re-inspections	15	162	177
Total ...	47	345	392

TABLE II. Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection in the year ended 31st December, 1923.

Defect or Disease.		Routine Inspections.		Special Inspections.	
		Number of defects.		Number of defects.	
		Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment.	Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment.
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Malnutrition		1	49	8	—
Uncleanliness :					
See Table IV. Group 5.	{ Head	2	107	22	8
	{ Body	2	9	5	1
	{ Clothing	6	54	1	1
Skin ...	{ Ringworm :				
	{ Scalp	1	—	6	—
	{ Body	—	—	5	—
	{ Scabies	—	—	18	—
	{ Impetigo	1	—	102	10
	{ Other Diseases (non-Tuberculous)	8	—	32	—
Eye ...	{ Blepharitis	3	2	15	—
	{ Conjunctivitis	1	—	10	—
	{ Keratitis	—	—	—	—
	{ Corneal Opacities	—	—	1	—
	{ Defective Vision (excluding Squint)	20	12	14	—
	{ Squint	4	—	—	—
Ear ...	{ Other conditions	—	1	—	—
	{ Defective Hearing	1	4	4	1
	{ Otitis media	3	—	19	—
Nose & Throat	{ Other ear diseases	1	1	3	2
	{ Enlarged Tonsils only.....	5	10	5	1
	{ Adenoids only	—	—	3	—
	{ Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids ...	5	32	8	2
Other conditions		2	6	1	—
Enlarged Cervical Glands (Non-Tuberculous)		—	11	16	2
Defective Speech		2	7	—	—
Teeth; Dental Disease		23	97	—	—
(see Table IV. Group 4.)					
Heart and Circulation.	{ Heart Disease :				
	{ Organic	—	1	—	2
	{ Functional	—	—	—	—
	{ Anaemia	4	4	2	—

(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Lungs ...	{ Bronchitis	2	—	—	—
	{ Other non-Tuberculous disease	—	—	—	—
Tuber- culosis	Pulmonary:				
	Definite	—	—	5	1
	Suspected	1	—	—	8
	Non-Pulmonary:				
	Glands	1	—	—	—
	Spine	—	—	—	—
	Hip	—	—	5	—
	Other Bones and Joints	—	—	—	—
Nervous System	{ Epilepsy	—	1	2	—
	{ Chorea	—	—	5	—
	{ Other conditions	3	1	—	—
Deform- ities	{ Rickets	—	4	—	—
	{ Spinal Curvature	—	—	—	—
	{ Other Forms	—	3	—	1
Other defects and diseases.....		5	6	5	—

B. Number of individual children found at Routine Medical Inspection to require treatment (excluding Uncleanliness and Dental Diseases).

Group.	Number of Children.		Percentage of children found to require treatment.
	Inspected	Found to require treatment.	
1	2	3	4
Code Groups:			
Entrants ...	156	14	8·9
Intermediates ...	180	31	17·2
Leavers ...	230	29	12·6
Total (Code Groups)	566	74	13·07
Other Routine Inspections ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

Table III. Numerical Return of all Exceptional Children in the area in 1923.

			Boys	Girls	Totals
Blind. (Including partially Blind).	Suitable for training in a School or class for the totally Blind.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind ...	—	—	—
		Attending Public Elementary Schools	—	—	—
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially Blind.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind ...	—	1	1
		Attending Public Elementary Schools	2	2	4
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
Deaf (including Deaf and Dumb), and partially Deaf.	Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally Deaf or Deaf and Dumb.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf ...	1	—	1
		Attending Public Elementary Schools	—	—	—
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially Deaf.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf ...	—	—	—
		Attending Public Elementary School	—	—	—
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	1	1
Mentally Defective.	Feeble Minded (Cases not notifiable to the Local Control Authority).	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children ...	—	—	—
		Attending Public Elementary Schools	2	—	2
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	2	1	3
	Notified to the Local Control Authority during the year.	Feeble Minded	1	—	1
		Imbeciles	—	1	1
		Idiots	—	—	—

			Boys	Girls	Totals
Epileptics	Suffering from severe Epilepsy.	Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics	—	—	—
		In Institutions other than Certified Special Schools ...	—	—	—
		Attending Public Elementary Schools	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	Suffering from Epilepsy which is not severe.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	1	2	3
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
Physically defective.	Infectious Pulmonary & Glandular Tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board ...	—	—	—
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	Non-infectious but active Pulmonary and Glandular Tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Residential Open-Air Schools	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Open Air Schools	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	3	6	9
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	Delicate Children (e.g. pre or latent tuberculosis, malnutrition, debility, anæmia, etc.	At Certified Residential Open-Air Schools	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Open-Air Schools	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	1	2	3
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	Active non-pulmonary tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Hospital Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board ...	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	3	—	3
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	—	—
	Crippled children (other than those with active tuberculous disease), e.g. children suffering from Paralysis, etc., and including those with severe heart disease.	At Certified Hospital Schools ...	—	—	—
		At Certified Residential Cripple Schools	—	—	—
		At Certified Day Cripple Schools	—	—	—
		At Public Elementary Schools ...	2	2	4
		At other Institutions	—	—	—
		At no School or Institution ...	—	2	2

Table IV. Return of Defects treated during the
Year ended 31st December, 1923.

Treatment Table.

Group 1. Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Gp. 5.)

Disease or Defect.	Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the Year.		
	Under the Local Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
1	2	3	4
Skin—			
Ringworm—Scalp ...	6	1	7
Ringworm—Body ...	5	—	5
Scabies	8	2	10
Impetigo	102	10	112
Other skin diseases ...	39	—	39
Minor Eye Defects— (External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II.)	32	3	35
Minor Ear Defects— ...	28	5	33
Miscellaneous— (e.g. Minor Injuries, Bruises, Sores, Chilblains, etc. ...	108	4	112
Total	328	25	353

Group 2. Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated as Minor Ailments—Group 1.)

Disease or Defect	Number of Defects dealt with.			
	Under the Authority's Scheme.	Submitted to refraction by private practitioner or at Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme.	Otherwise.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5
Errors of Refraction (including Squint), ...	68	3	1	72
Other Defects or Disease of Eyes (excluding those recorded in Group 1.) ...	—	—	—	—
Total	68	3	1	72

Total number of children for whom Spectacles were prescribed:—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme	...	...	52
(b) Otherwise	...	...	—

Total number of children who obtained or received Spectacles:—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme	...	...	48
(b) Otherwise	...	...	—

Group 3. Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Received Operative Treatment.			Received other forms of treatment.	Total number treated.
Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital. 1	By private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. 2	Total. 3		
14	4	18	—	—

Group 4. Dental Defects.

1. Number of children who were—				
(a) Inspected by Dentist:				
	Aged	5	...	58
	"	6	...	42
	"	7	...	31
	"	8	...	39
Routine Age Groups.	"	10	...	—
	"	11	...	—
	"	12	...	—
	"	13	...	—
	"	14	...	—
	Total	...	...	170
Specials	...	...	...	23
Grand Total			...	193
(b) Found to require treatment			...	122
(c) Actually treated	...	...	...	109
(d) Re-treated during the Year as the result of periodical examination			...	12
2. Half-days devoted to	Inspection	...	3	
	Treatment	...	22	
			—	25
3. Attendances made by children for treatment	...	...	...	172
4. Fillings	Permanent Teeth	...	49	
	Temporary Teeth	...	—	49
5. Extractions	Permanent Teeth	...	34	
	Temporary Teeth	...	115	
			—	149
6. Administrations of general anæsthetics for extractions	...	...	...	Nil
7. Other Operations	Permanent Teeth	...	6	
	Temporary Teeth	...	8	
			—	14

Group 5.**Uncleanliness and verminous conditions.**

1.	Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	...	...	6.4
2.	Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses	...	...	1701
3.	Number of individual children found unclean			191
4.	Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority	...		34
5.	Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :---			
	(a) Under the Education Act, 1921	..		Nil
	(b) Under School Attendance Byelaws			Nil

